

Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC)

Ethnic and Racial Disparities Reduction Model

Although approaches at reducing ethnic and racial disparities (ERD) within juvenile justice systems may differ from county to county, JJAC has identified key characteristics that must remain central to any effort aimed at reducing the disparate treatment of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian youth:

1. Creative and Culturally-rooted

- a. Open mindedness and respect for creative approaches at prevention, intervention and post-vention.
- b. Prioritize community-centered responses to youth misconduct to reduce rates of system involvement.
- c. Focus on culturally relevant restorative and rehabilitative strategies, led with fidelity to traditional practices, teachings and values.
- d. Outcome measurement system that takes into consideration culturally-based elements of success.

2. Community- and Family-Centered

- a. Systems must be accountable and share decision-making power with the communities most impacted in order to reach their maximum potential toward child well-being.
- b. Involvement of parents/caregivers increases the child's likelihood of success, allowing the parent to help shape expectations and maintain accountability for expected success outcomes.
- c. Develop a strategy for actively engaging and informing community about ongoing opportunities for collaboration and involvement.

3. Historical Competence

- a. Understand and take into account the role historical trauma has played amongst Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian communities as well as the impact of implicit bias amongst decision-makers.

4. Collect, analyze and utilize data.

- a. Systems must collect, analyze, and utilize data to reduce racial and ethnic disparities and achieve justice.

For more information, contact:

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